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- 2.—*On the Inland Navigation of Travancore ; an account of the Alipee Mud-bank and the Warkallay Barrier.* By C. R. MARKHAM, Esq., Secretary R.G.S.

THE backwaters on the Malabar coast of India form an inland water-communication traversing nearly the whole length of Cochin and Travancore, and continuous from Trivanderum to the railroad at Ponary, except at one point, the Warkallay Barrier. The author visited this spot in December, 1865. The barrier is formed by a spur of the ghauts extending to the sea, about 6 miles broad, with a summit-level of 180 feet. From the backwater on the south of the barrier a ravine runs up to within half-a-mile of the summit of the ridge, and from that on the north there is another ravine which also indents the side of the ridge. A plan for cutting through and tunneling the barrier, to complete the system of inland navigation in this part of India, has been proposed by the Travancore engineer and adopted by the Government.

The mud-bank of Alipee, the Port of Travancore, is a curious phenomenon. The safety of the roadstead arises from its possessing a remarkably soft muddy bottom, and the fluidity of the water being diminished by the intermixture of mud the anchorage is very smooth in four fathoms, even while the swell of the monsoon is at its height in the offing. Its formation, according to the explanation given by Mr. Crawford, the commercial agent of the Travancore Sirkar, is due to the hydraulic pressure of the waters of the backwater on the fine silt of the bottom, forcing it by subterraneous passages under the coast belt of land ; the pressure arising from the level of the backwater being, during the height of the monsoon, four feet higher than that of the ocean. At low-water in this season a series of mud-eruptions are observed to form on the beach.

This paper, with illustrative Maps, will be printed entire in the Journal, vol. xxxvi.

Sixth Meeting, February 11th, 1867.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS. — *Carleton L'Estrange, Esq. ; D. MacLoughlin, Esq., M.D.*

ELECTIONS.—*Colonel Shafto Adair ; George H. Wilson Brown, Esq. ; E. Butler, Esq. ; Rev. P. Butler (Rector of Ulcombe) ; Leonard Crane, Esq., M.D. ; Charles John Ely, Esq. ; John Langlands, Esq. ; Guillermo*